



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1057

H.P. 750

House of Representatives, March 19, 2013

An Act Related to Public Funding of Charter Schools

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative KUSIAK of Fairfield.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

5 This bill proposes to amend several funding requirements for public charter schools
6 established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 112. The bill proposes
7 that:

8 1. The Department of Education establish a new program budget account for funding
9 the operation of public charter schools. Under current law, local school administrative
10 units must provide funding for students who reside within the school administrative unit
11 but who enroll in a public charter school. This bill proposes to require that the
12 Commissioner of Education recommend an annual amount of state funding for students
13 enrolled in public charter schools, but that funding that supports student enrollment or the
14 operation of public charter schools may not come from state or local resources allocated
15 through the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program;

16 2. The amount of state funding provided by the Department of Education for a
17 student enrolled in a public charter school may not exceed the combined level of federal,
18 state and local per-pupil funding that would have been provided for the student had the
19 student remained in attendance in the student's local school. Public charter schools may
20 not discriminate among potential students who wish to attend the school based upon the
21 combined level of federal, state and local per-pupil funding that would follow the student
22 from the student's sending school administrative unit;

23 3. Virtual public charter schools may not receive state or local funding, except that
24 state and local resources allocated through the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools
25 program must be provided by the sending school administrative unit to the virtual public
26 charter school for a student who experiences education disruption as defined in the Maine
27 Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 5161, subsection 9 and who enrolls in a virtual
28 public charter school; and

29 4. School administrative units not be responsible for the transportation costs for a
30 student who resides within the school administrative unit but who enrolls in a public
31 charter school, and school administrative units not be responsible for providing
32 transportation for students who are enrolled in a public charter school and who also attend
33 a career and technical education program that is supported by public funds raised by the
34 school administrative unit. Public charter school students may access transportation to
35 the career and technical education program only from a noncharter public secondary
36 school or another location where career and technical education students gather to access
37 transportation to the career and technical education program.